

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer manufacturing system comprising:
a system under test (SUT), the SUT including a network adapter and
a boot loader for loading the appropriate operating system; and
5 a station for receiving customer orders for the SUT, the station including a
sequencer, the sequencer obtains a boot selection file for the SUT from a directory, the SUT
retrieves and parses the boot selection file to obtain the operating system image to load and
boot until the SUT is configured with the appropriate data.
2. The computer manufacturing system of claim 1 wherein the SUT includes the
10 communication software for communicating with the sequencer; captures the address of the
network adapter; uses the address to look up the directory of the boot selection file; retrieves
the boot selection file from the directory; and bootstraps the operating system based upon the
boot selection file.
3. The computer manufacturing system of claim 1 wherein the SUT comprises a
15 single processing system.
4. The computer manufacturing system of claim 1 wherein the SUT comprises a
server dense architecture.

5. The computer manufacturing system of claim 1 wherein the boot loader comprises preboot code within the SUT.

6. The computer manufacturing system of claim 2 wherein the communication software comprises an internet protocol (IP) stack.

5 7. A method for allowing a system under test (SUT) to boot a plurality of operating systems without a need for local media; the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a network adapter in the SUT;

(b) obtaining a boot selection station file by a sequencer within a station for the SUT, the boot selection file being stored in a manufacturing server; and

10 (c) retrieving the best selection file via the network adapter and parsing the boot selection file via a network adapter to obtain the operating system image to load and boot until the SUT is configured with the appropriate data.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the SUT includes the communication software; captures the address of the network adapter; uses the address to look up the directory of the boot selection file; retrieves the boot selection file from the directory; and
15 bootstraps the operating system based upon the boot selection file.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the SUT comprises a single processing system.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the SUT comprises a server dense architecture.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the communication software comprises an internet protocol (IP) stack.

5 12. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for allowing a system under test (SUT) to boot a plurality of operating systems without a need for local media; the program instructions for:

(a) providing a network adapter in the SUT;

10 (b) obtaining a boot selection station file by a sequencer within a station for the SUT, the boot selection file being stored in a manufacturing server; and

(c) retrieving the best selection file via the network adapter and parsing the boot selection file via a network adapter to obtain the operating system image to load and boot until the SUT is configured with the appropriate data.

15 13. The computer readable medium of claim 7 wherein the SUT includes the communication software; captures the address of the network adapter; uses the address to look up the directory of the boot selection file; retrieves the boot selection file from the directory; and bootstraps the operating system based upon the boot selection file.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 7 wherein the SUT comprises a single processing system.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 7 wherein the SUT comprises a server dense architecture.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 8 wherein the communication software comprises an internet protocol (IP) stack.